

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

REPORT

SUBJECT Gigant Pig-Breeding Farm at Ceperka

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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
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1. The forced-labor camp at Ceperka was formed in summer 1954 in order to provide a labor force for the Gigant pig-breeding farm. The Gigant farm is located 13 km. northwest of Pardubice and the forced-labor camp is situated about one km. from the farm. The farm is close to a wooded area where ammunition dumps are located. Access to this area is restricted to military personnel. 25X1
2. The forced-labor camp is located in a fenced-off area about 500 x 100 meters in size. The fence is of ordinary plain garden netting with two strands of barbed wire strung on the top and is about two meters high. There are no sentry boxes or towers. The fence is illuminated during the night, but it does not form any real obstacle against an escape. In this respect, it should be noted that the work on the farm allowed a certain freedom of movement for the prisoners, and the prisoners were consequently of a category considered unlikely to attempt to escape (Retribution-Law prisoners - mostly Germans; cases with sentences nearly expired; and light-sentence prisoners). There were therefore no such stringent precautions as are enforced in some other Czechoslovak forced-labor camps. Most of the prisoners were Sudeten Germans.
3. The camp was administered by SNB personnel (prison guard section), five men, altogether, and guarded by ZS personnel (Zavodni straz - Plant Guard), also only five men strong. There were about 50 prisoners.
4. The camp commander as of May 1955 was Vrchni strazmistr (Starsina - master sergeant) Miloslav Vasek. Guards known by name were: Vrchni strazmistr Ladislav Hoplicek and Stabni strazmistr Valko (fnu).
5. The camp buildings were wooden huts: one for ZS guards, one serving as the SNB barracks and administrative building, and eleven huts to accommodate the prisoners. In the immediate vicinity of the camp, outside the camp fence, there were several wooden huts which housed civilian employees who also worked at the farm. 25X1

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6. The farm itself is located in an area about two kilometers square. It is fenced off by plain wire netting, with barbed wire on top, about three meters high. The fence is illuminated at night. There are two sentry boxes, located at opposite corners of the fenced-off area. The farm is also guarded by ZS sentries. There are four entrances to the farm. The ZS guard room is located at the main entrance.
7. There are the following buildings and facilities in the farm area:
 - a. Administration building
 - b. Four brick buildings with large pigpens
 - c. Feed store
 - d. Mill
 - e. Garage
 - f. Filter station (sewage disposal)
 - g. Boiler house
 - h. Railway siding
8. There is also a narrow-gauge transportation line connecting the feeding stations with the mill, the store and the railroad siding. The waterworks, located in the woods not far from the farm, supply the farm and the camp with water.
9. In the administration building, the administrative and veterinary offices are located. There is also a laboratory and storage place for veterinary medicaments.
10. The brick buildings for housing the pigs are large enough to accommodate about 1,100 pigs each. There are about 50 pens in each building, with open-air pens attached to them.
11. The mill is a large, four-story building with feed-mixing facilities.
12. The boiler house functions as a heating plant for the farm and the camp.
13. The farm is very well equipped. The feeding and cleaning facilities are up-to-date, the pens are well drained and have tiled floors, over which wooden boards are laid during the winter.
14. When the farm was still being managed by civilian personnel, prior to summer 1954, it was in very bad shape: ZS guardsmen have stated that the farm then was completely unproductive. The civilian personnel neglected their work, fed the animals without preparing the food properly and without paying attention to the rate of growth. The place was uncleaned for days, and as a result of these conditions there were many cases of disease, with as many as ten pigs being lost in a single day. The employees also stole grain on a large scale. There were also cases where a dead pig was brought to the farm and exchanged for another, healthy animal. On the whole, the farm was being sabotaged on a grand scale.
15. When the civilian personnel were almost entirely replaced by prisoners, the conditions changed completely. These improved conditions were brought about by the German prisoners, especially the present manager of the farm, Drabek (fnu). Drabek is a Sudeten German, sentenced to a 20-year term on the basis of the Retribution Law. He is a former big farm owner and an agricultural expert. Drabek is in complete charge of the farm as regards pig breeding. He directs the feeding, sanitary precautions and disease prevention. He holds the official title of "Zootechniker". Subordinate to him are two veterinaries (also German prisoners) and two veterinary student assistants (Laboranten). He also directs the civilian employees working on the farm.
16. Drabek introduced strict cleanliness and efficient feed mixing. As a result, the pig death rate rapidly declined and, at about 1/10%, it is now well below the accepted normal rate of 2%. The animals come to the farm by rail, when they weigh about 40 kg., from piglet-breeding farms. The Gigant has its own piglet farm, situated about 2 km. away, in the woods; there about 500 piglets are bred at a time. They come to the Gigant farm already inoculated.

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17. The feeding period is about six months. During this period, the daily rate of growth is about 58 dekagrams in summer and about 38 dekagrams in winter. In all, there were over 4,000 pigs on the farm, with the monthly output of 400 animals weighing on the average about 150 kg., although some weighed over 200 kg.
18. The hog cholera (Schweinepest) did not occur on the farm during the period of observation. The animals usually suffered from lung diseases caused by too speedy growth. Such animals were slaughtered and consumed on the farm. The ill animals were kept in isolated pens attached to each building. Only such cases were given treatment by injections; no preventive inoculations were administered to healthy animals.
19. After a certain period, the buildings were given a good cleaning and were repainted. The dirt with the remnants of food was washed out of the pens daily and drained into the filter station, where it was disposed of. At the farm entrances, there were shallow reservoirs made of concrete and filled with disinfectant, and everyone entering the farm was supposed to step into these in order to disinfect his shoes. The same was arranged for trucks. However, this regulation was seldom adhered to. Lime was used as a disinfectant.
20. The pig feed is ground in the mill (grain, corn) and mixed with other ingredients - flour, ground potatoes, yeast, dry protein, dried blood, skimmed milk, mineral salts, groats. The daily rations vary according to the season, the age and rate of growth. For a three-day period, the store issued the following amounts of feed to the mill for grinding and mixing:
- 550 sacks of dried potatoes, each weighing 40 kg.
 - 90 to 100 sacks of zito (flour), each weighing 60 kg.
 - 60 sacks of protein mixture (bilkova smes), consisting of:
 - ground fish, ground sunflower seeds, ground lentils, modra skalice (a fertilizer), etc., each weighing 60 kg.
 - 20 sacks of dried blood, each weighing 40 kg.
 - 300 sacks of groats (srot), each weighing 60 kg.
 - mineral salt (8 50-kg. sacks per month)
 - yeast (500 kg. per month)
 - skimmed milk, delivered from the Pardubice state dairy (exact amount unknown).
21. Drabek was supervised in his work by Ministry of Agriculture officials who continually congratulated him on the results achieved. In view of a coming amnesty for Retribution-Law prisoners, he was offered an opportunity to stay at Gigant as manager. It is believed that Drabek would probably accept if it were not for his family [redacted] who are unlikely to agree to join him behind the Iron Curtain. 25X1
22. Prisoners holding key positions in running the farm earned as much as 1,800 or 2,000 Czech crowns per month (about 1,100 crowns after deductions), plus bonuses, while an ordinary prisoner earned about 300 crowns after deductions.
23. The Ceperka Gigant farm was considered a model farm and was the site of frequent visits by other state farmers from similar farms in Czechoslovakia who wished to become better acquainted with breeding and feeding procedures. In view of the success achieved by the Gigant farm, it was rumored that the farm would have its accommodations and animal shelters doubled. It is believed that after the German caretakers (Retribution-Law prisoners) leave the farm, to be expatriated [redacted] the farm will be neglected, because the only persons remaining there will be Czech prisoners or Czech civilians, who are actually incapable of keeping up the good work and the excellent condition of the farm. Consequently, it will revert to its original poor conditions. 25X1

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